

SECTION 3: Lakes Listing And Delisting Status

Listing Considerations For Clean Lakes Program Lakes

Table 3-1 below delineates the location on the 2002 Integrated List of all lakes previously listed on NJ's 1998 303d List. Lake listings within the 1998 303(d) List are contained throughout all of Appendix A of that document. Current listing of lakes are determined by a series of factors as discussed in detail in the Department's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods (Methods Document). Lakes originally listed in the 1998 List due to eutrophication assessed under the Department's Clean Lakes Program are now listed based upon the monitoring program which assessed the lake. Under the umbrella of Clean Lakes, lake impairment issues had been brought to the attention of NJDEP principally through four avenues:

1. New Jersey Lake Management Program Reports (NJLMP),
2. Clean Lakes Program Phase I diagnostic studies (CLP),
3. Lake Water Quality Assessment Reports (LWQA), and
4. Lake Intensive Surveys performed prior to 1980 (LIS).

Lake Reports through avenues 1 and 2 occurred in response to perceived impairments by local authorities to lake recreational uses brought about by eutrophication. LWQA reports and LIS (numbers 3 and 4, above) represent lake investigations performed by NJDEP for assessing general water quality in New Jersey lakes and were not always in response to reported impaired recreational uses. In creating the 1998 and earlier Lists, those creating the list were not aware of these distinctions within the Clean Lakes Program reporting venues and mistakenly regarded all eutrophic lakes contained within the Program's database as use impaired which lead to them being subsequently 303(d) listed. For the 2002 listing, this has been corrected.

Currently, in order to insure that the TMDL process was appropriately applied to eutrophic lakes with known recreational impairment, the department assigned eutrophic lakes to the following categories within the Integrated Assessment:

Lake Assessment Category	Recreational use support status
• New Jersey Lake Management Program Report	Non Attainment*
• Clean Lakes Program Phase I and II diagnostic Studies	Non Attainment*
• Lake Water Quality Assessment Report	Status not determined
• Lake Intensive Survey	Status not determined
• All lakes assessed as <u>mesotrophic</u> , regardless of assessment method or lakes which have been successfully remediated and have had their recreational use restored.	Use Attained

*Unless information indicates that the use impairment has been subsequently remediated in which case the use is regarded as fully supporting.

The department reviewed all information sources which document restoration efforts for use impaired lakes. If it was shown that the recreational uses had been restored, the lake was categorized as fully meeting its recreational use and placed into the corresponding sublist of the Integrated List.

Although many of the lake assessments discussed here may be twenty years old, the condition of the lake (with regards to recreational use support) is considered the same as that delineated in the original assessment in the absence of significant remediation. This rationale is based on the observation that unless a remedial action has taken place on an impaired lake, its condition in regards to use impairment is not expected to improve through time.

Listing Considerations For Issues Not Emanating From The Clean Lakes Program

All lake-based finfish consumption advisories, including those for PCB's, chlorinated pesticides, dioxins and mercury are listed in the 2002 Integrated List on sublist 5 as per the Methods Document. Although New Jersey had initially proposed to list waters with mercury fish advisories on sublist 4b based upon work by the Mercury Task Force, USEPA has required all states to list these waters on sublist 5 for the 2002 303(d) cycle.

Strongly influencing the listing process in 2002 are the sanitary quality of many lakes for the support of primary contact recreation if and when they possess recreational bathing beaches. If the primary contact standard is violated, the lake is assigned to sublist 5.

Ultimately lakes, as all waterbodies in the Integrated List, are listed on the 303(d) List based upon the worst case assessment, with sublist 5 issues being regarded as 303(d) listed.

Table 3-1

Table 3-1 lists all lakes previously listed in the Department's 1998 303d List alphabetically by lake name. Also provided are the small watershed numbers previously used in the 1998 List to indicate the location of the lakes (see Figure I contained in this section). There are some lakes that share the same names, these can be differentiated by checking the locational information provided for the lakes to discern which lake is being referred to from the 1998 List. Also provided in the Table are the issue(s) leading to the lakes originally being Listed in the 1998 List, and/or, the report type which originally brought the lake to the attention of the Department's 303(d) process. A "Comments" field provides either additional locational information or issues related to lake remediation.

The "2002 Lake Name" column displays the lake name as now delineated in the 2002 Listing and the "2002 Assessment" column indicates the current assessment status as per

the methods described in the Methods Document. This is followed by columns showing the sublists to which the lake is assigned in the Integrated List based upon the status of the various designated uses. The last column on the right summarizes the justification for the final 303(d) listing status based upon the criteria described in the preceding paragraphs.

Note that Table 3-1 indicates why previously 303(d) listed lakes are or are not currently 303(d) listed. As such, this table only displays issues which lead to listing/delisting decisions and does not indicate all current water quality issues associated with each lake, hence Table 3-1 does not display a column indicating sublist 1 or sublist 2 issues. The reader is assigned to the full Integrated List for such information. The health of the recreational fishery was involved in the listing decision of only three previously 303(d) listed lakes (Davidson's Mill Pond, Lake Hopatcong and Spruce Run Reservoir) and these are indicated in the Table.